

The transportation sector is a major infrastructural facility and a foundational constituent of the national economy, with an extensive linkage and impact on growth and development process in general. The primary components of this sector and its major subsectors and networks serve as intermediary intersection (link) of markets for goods and services as well as means for mobility of people and population through the country and overseas.

In Iran, the development of transportation network and infrastructure is even more important as a component of the economy and a common tool for development because of opportunities that are increasingly related to geopolitical status of Iran among neighboring states, some of them being landlocked. Hence, the development of this sector along with opportunities and economic development in the region is strategically deemed highly urgent and significant for Iran.

Based on national accounts data, in 1392, the value-added of "transport, storage, and communication" group grew by 1.9 percent at constant 1383 prices. Share of this sector in GDP reached 8.5 percent at current prices.

In the land transport sector (rail and road), 842.5 million passengers and 653.7 million tons of goods were transported, showing 6.6 percent decrease and 1.3 percent increase, respectively, compared with the year before. In the sea and air transport

sectors, a total of 41.3 million passengers and 139.8 million tons of goods were transported, indicating 14.3 and 0.7 percent increase, respectively, compared with the year before.

Government Investment

According to the Budget Law for 1392, a sum of Rls. 50.7 trillion was approved as credits for acquisition of non-financial-national assets projects of transportation sector (road, air, sea, and rail), up by 22.4 percent compared with the approved figure of the previous year. According to the Treasury General, the government spent Rls. 35.8 trillion for the implementation of transportation sector projects, showing 70.6 percent realization compared with the approved figure and 110.6 percent increase compared with the year before.

Table 6.1. Performance of Transportation Fleet in 1392

	Passengers		Goods	
	Number (million persons)	Share (percent)	Weight (million tons)	Share (percent)
Road	817.0	92.4	621.0	78.3
Rail	25.5	2.9	32.7	4.1
Sea	15.6	1.8	139.7	17.6
Air	25.7	2.9	0.06	*
Total	883.8	100.0	793.4	100.0

Source: Statistical Yearbooks of the Islamic Republic of Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, and Islamic Republic of Iran Railways; Ports and Maritime Organization; and Civil Aviation Organization.

Table 6.2. Credits Paid for Acquisition of Non-financial–National Assets in Transportation Sector (billion rials)

	1390	1391	1392	Percentage change	
				1391	1392
Transportation sector	34,614.1	16,996.3	35,787.2	-50.9	110.6

Source: Treasury General, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance.

In this year, road and rail transport sectors accounted for the highest shares of paid credits by 63.9 and 33.5 percent. Performance figures for the road and rail transport sectors revealed 128.8 and 85.5 percent increase, respectively.

Freight and Passenger Transport

Road Transport

In 1392, the share of road transport sector in total carried passengers was 92.4 percent and in total carried goods, 78.3 percent. Moreover, 621 million tons of goods (with and without bill of lading) were carried by road, showing 1.6 percent rise compared with 1391. Approximately 11.6 million tons of goods were transited by road, showing 7.8 percent increase compared with the year before.

In this year, 211 million passengers, using the public transport system, were carried by road (based on manifest), indicating 6.6 percent decline compared with the previous

year. The number of carried passengers measured in person-kilometers decreased by 2.7 percent and reached 56.4 billion person-kilometers. In 1392, the average number of carried passengers was 11.9 persons and the average distance traveled by public transport was 198 kilometers (based on manifest). Total number of passengers carried by road in this year was estimated at 817 million persons, 388 million of whom were using the public transport system.

The length of the roads under the supervision of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (excluding rural roads) reached 85.6 thousand kilometers by end-1392, of which 2.6 percent were freeways, 16.5 percent highways, 25.3 percent main roads, and 54.3 percent side roads.

Figure 6.1. Growth in the number of carried passengers

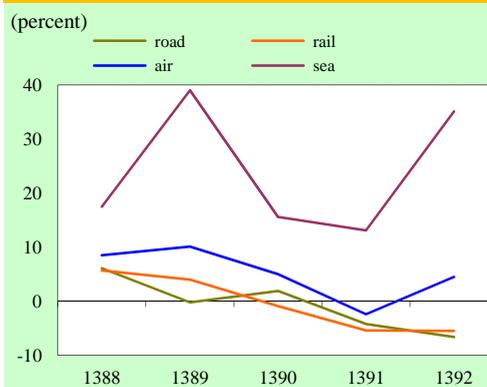


Table 6.3. Road Transport

	1390	1391	1392	Percentage change	
				1391	1392
Carried goods (million tons)	580	611	621	5.3	1.6
Transited goods (million tons)	9.2	10.8	11.6	16.3	7.8
Carried passengers					
Total carried passengers (million persons)	913	875	817	-4.2	-6.6
Public transport (million persons)	434	416	388	-4.1	-6.7
Share of public transport in carried passengers (percent)	47.5	47.5	47.5	* ¹	-0.1 ¹

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Islamic Republic of Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization. ¹ In percentage points.

Rail Transport

In 1392, a total of 25.5 million passengers were carried by rail, registering 5.5 percent fall compared with the previous year. Accordingly, rail share in total carried passengers was 2.9 percent.

Total goods carried by railway decreased by 4.6 percent to 32.7 million tons. Rail share in total freight transport was 4.1 percent. Furthermore, about 0.5 million tons of goods (including oil and non-oil goods) were transited by rail, down by 41.5 percent compared with the year before.

The number of locomotives reached 821 at year-end, revealing 5.5 percent growth compared with the previous year. The ratio of locomotives in service to total locomotives (operation coefficient) was 55.9 percent, showing 0.3 percentage point increase compared with the previous year. Moreover, 121.8 kilometers of railroads were renovated and 112.8 kilometers of railroads were reconstructed.

Air Transport

The total number of air passengers in 1392 rose by 4.5 percent to 25.7 million persons. Therefore, air share in total passenger transport equaled 2.9 percent. The share of non-public sector in domestic flights was 82.4 percent and in international flights, 68.7 percent. The number of passenger aircraft belonging to the national air fleet increased by 53.5 percent to 221 in this year.

In 1392, the amount of cargo carried by air (domestically and abroad) amounted to 63.0 thousand tons, indicating 21.3 percent fall compared with the previous year.

Figure 6.2. Shares of passenger and freight vehicles based on age of vehicles by end-1392

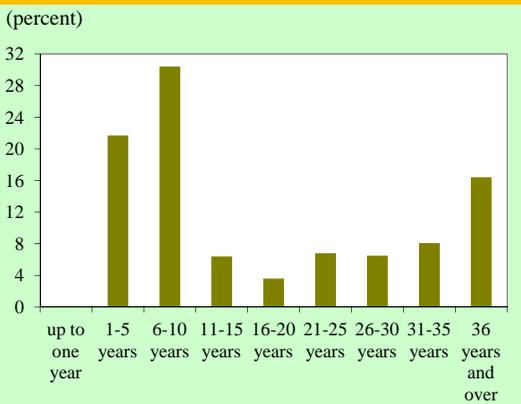


Table 6.4. Rail Transport

	1390	1391	1392	Percentage change	
				1391	1392
Carried passengers (million persons)	28.6	27.0	25.5	-5.4	-5.5
Carried goods (million tons)	33.1	34.3	32.7	3.5	-4.6
Transited goods (thousand tons)	956.0	906.0	530.0	-5.2	-41.5

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways.

Table 6.5. Air Transport

	1390	1391	1392	Percentage change	
				1391	1392
Carried passengers (million persons)	25.2	24.6	25.7	-2.4	4.5
Domestic flights	16.5	16.6	16.6	0.6	0.0
International flights	8.7	8.0	9.1	-8.0	13.8
Carried goods (thousand tons)	142.5	80.0	63.0	-43.9	-21.3
Transit flights (thousand)	160.0	165.0	179.0	3.1	8.5

Source: Civil Aviation Organization.

Sea Transport

The nominal capacity of commercial ports (oil and non-oil goods) reached 190.0 million tons in 1392, indicating 5.6 percent growth compared with the previous year. Moreover, the capacity of the commercial sea transportation fleet was 5.3 million tons in this year, indicating 7.9 percent decrease compared with 1391.

Port container traffic decreased by 15.0 percent, from 2,593.7 thousand TEU¹ in 1391 to 2,204.2 thousand TEU in 1392. Furthermore, port container capacity amounted to 5.3 million TEU, up by 7.4 percent compared with the previous year.

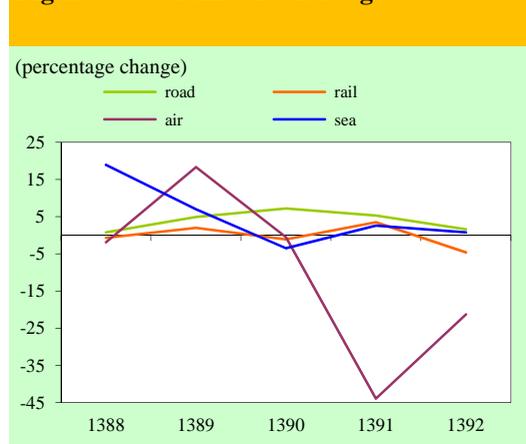
Performance of ports in 1392 indicated that loading and unloading of oil products amounted to 44.0 million tons, up by 6.7 percent. Loading and unloading of non-oil goods, on the other hand, reached 95.7 million tons, down by 1.8 percent compared with the previous year.

Table 6.6. Loading and Unloading of Goods at Ports (million tons)

	1390	1391	1392	Percentage change	
				1391	1392
Non-oil goods	92.5	97.4	95.7	5.3	-1.8
Oil products	42.6	41.2	44.0	-3.3	6.7
Total	135.2	138.6	139.7	2.6	0.8

Source: Ports and Maritime Organization.

Figure 6.3. Volume of carried goods



¹ Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit.